

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JANUARY 13, 2009

SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES GRADING SYSTEM

On November 20, 2007, the Board approved my motion which directed the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Department of Public Health to research the viability of inspecting and posting grades at skilled nursing homes and convalescent homes. The report back to the Board indicated that the County does not have the authority to impose a mandatory grading system for these facilities, as the California Legislature has vested the authority to inspect and regulate these facilities solely with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Given these findings, the Chief Executive Office, the Department of Public Health, and my office are exploring options for improving consumer information about skilled nursing and convalescent homes. On October 7, 2008, the Board approved my follow up motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a five signature letter to the Governor, the California Legislature, and the Director of the State Department of Public Health to support a facility rating guide for skilled nursing facilities and convalescent homes. Subsequent to this motion, CMS fully

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MOTION

Molina	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

implemented their Five Star Nursing Home Rating System. Nursing home ratings are based on three primary sources of data:

Health Inspection Results

- Comprehensive: The nursing home health inspection process looks at all major aspects of care in a nursing home (about 180 different items).
- Onsite Visits by Trained Inspectors: It is the only source of information that comes from a trained team of objective surveyors who visit each nursing home to check on the quality of care, inspect medical records, and talk with residents about their care.
- Federal Quality Checks: Federal surveyors check on the state surveyors' work to make sure they are following the national process and that any differences between states stay within reasonable bounds.

Staffing

- Overall Staffing: The quality ratings look at the overall number of staff compared to the number of residents and how many of the staff are trained nurses.
- Adjusted for the Population: The ratings consider differences in how sick the nursing home residents are in each nursing home, since that will make a difference in how many staff are needed.

Quality Measures

- In-Depth Look: The quality measures provide an important in-depth look at how well each nursing home performs on ten important aspects of care. For example, these measures show how well the nursing home helps people keep their ability to dress and eat, or how well the nursing home prevents and treats skin ulcers.
- National Measures: The ten quality measures used in the Five Star rating are used in all nursing homes.

Each of these sources are given a star rating and then combined to calculate the overall rating. This rating system is excellent and the CMS Nursing Home Compare website provides valuable information to help residents and their families in assessing and selecting a nursing home. While this system is posted on the CMS and the County's Department of Public Health websites, I believe it is critical to ensure broad public awareness of this information by requiring nursing homes to prominently display their CMS Five Star Rating at the nursing home itself, in addition to having this information available at the CMS Nursing Home Compare website.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Prepare a five-signature letter to Governor Schwarzenegger and Dr. Mark Horton, Director of the California Department of Public Health, requesting that, consistent with the directive in Health & Safety Code Section 1422.5 to provide updated and accurate information to the public and consumers regarding long term care facilities, they take whatever action is necessary to implement a requirement that nursing homes that participate in Medicare and Medi-Cal post their CMS Five Star rating in a prominent location in plain view of nursing home patients, residents and visitors to the nursing home, and that they also include information on the CMS Five Star Quality Rating System on the Admissions Agreement that is provided to their patients and residents; and
2. Include a link to the CMS Nursing Home Compare website on the County's website.

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